

IN THE SPECIFICATION

In the Abstract

Please replace the Abstract as filed with the following amended Abstract.

An ossicle prosthesis (10) includes a first securing element (11) and a second securing element (12), the second securing element connected to a member of the ossicle chain. The ossicle chain ends at the first securing element in a ball joint, which includes two struts (13, 13') solidly connected to the first securing element (11). The two struts enclose a gaplike space, in which a ball (14) is pivotably supported in two recesses (15), the ball (14) being part of an elongated shaft (16) that connects the first and second securing elements and includes many balls (14, 14', 14'') adjacent to one another. The elongated shaft is displaceable through the gaplike space between the two struts and through a perforation (17) in the first securing element, where one of the balls snaps between the respective recesses. The gaplike space can be made narrower between the two struts (13, 13') of the ball joint for fixation of the shaft (16) after the desired length has been adjusted.

In the Written Description:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page, 4, line 7, as follows:

According to the invention, this object is attained in a way that is both surprisingly simple and effective, in that the elongated shaft includes many balls adjoining one another, of which one is the ball in the ball joint, that the elongated shaft is displaceable through the gaplike space between the two struts of the ball joint, in a direction perpendicular to the struts and toward or away from the first securing element and through a perforation in the first securing element, and one each of the balls snaps in a snapped-in position between the recesses of the struts, so that a desired length of the shaft ~~modulus module~~ adjusts the spacing of the balls from one another, and the part of the shaft protruding through and past the first securing element can be cut to length, and that the gaplike space between the two struts of the ball joint can be made narrower for fixation of the shaft after the desired length has been adjusted.